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POLAND: Maintaining Domestic Calm

The government and Solidarity are working to preserve the political calm that has prevailed in Poland for almost a month. [REDACTED]

The two sides are pursuing negotiations on sensitive issues in a businesslike manner and have cooperated to ease local tensions that earlier might have led to confrontations. Solidarity leaders, including leading dissident Adam Michnik, on Thursday helped quiet a crowd that was demonstrating in front of the police headquarters in a town just south of Warsaw to protest the arrest and beating of two youths by police. [REDACTED]

Progress was made this week toward a compromise on Solidarity's demand for regular access to radio and television. The government also generally agreed that the union could operate its own radio and television studio. Other teams of negotiators reportedly discussed Solidarity's call for reforms to the legal system in a good atmosphere. [REDACTED]

The government also kept its promise this week to present legislation to register the independent farmers' union, Rural Solidarity. The action has led to the resignation of some leaders of the Peasants' Party, which may now try to regain support by representing farmers' interests more forcefully. Rural Solidarity will step up its organization efforts this weekend and probably will soon begin negotiations with the government to secure more goods and services for farmers. [REDACTED]

Although few of the toughest issues have been resolved, some moderates in Solidarity believe that the government wants to negotiate settlements to problems. They also have come to realize that the union will not get everything it wants and that tactics other than strikes are useful in exerting pressure on the regime.
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